Application No. : 10/789,815
Amdt. Dated : December 12, 2006
Reply To O.A. Of : September 12, 2006

Amendments to the Claims:

The listing of claims replaces all prior versions and listings of claims. Only those claims being amended herein show their changes in highlighted form, where insertions appear as underlined text (e.g., insertions) while deletions appear as strikethrough text (e.g., ~~deletions~~) and double brackets (e.g., [[deletions]]).

1. **(Currently Amended)** A handheld night vision device for viewing a subject in low light conditions, wherein a reduced portion of a user's face proximate an eye is illuminated, the night vision device comprising:

a housing having optics to collect light into the housing;

an eyepiece comprising a flexible eye cup including a pliable member capable of substantially form fitting an eye socket of a user thereby being capable of substantially precluding illumination of a face of the user by the night vision device;

an infrared light source capable of illuminating an object to be viewed by the user through the night vision device;

an imager positioned to be illuminated by the collected light, the imager configured to generate an electrical signal representative of an intensity enhanced image of the collected light; and

a digital display disposed within the housing, the digital display configured to display the intensity enhanced image, wherein the digital display is viewable through the eyepiece.

2.-3. **(Canceled)**

4. **(Original)** The night vision device of Claim 1, wherein the digital display comprises a liquid crystal display (LCD).

5.-6. **(Canceled)**

7. **(Currently Amended)** The night vision device of Claim 1 [[6]], wherein the light source comprises an array of infrared light emitting diodes.

8. **(Currently Amended)** The night vision device of Claim 1 [[5]], further comprising a user controller configured to adjust the intensity of the light source.

9. **(Original)** The night vision device of Claim 1, further comprising an interchangeable filter disposed between the digital display and the eyepiece.

10. **(Original)** The night vision device of Claim 9, wherein the interchangeable filter is configured to reduce night blindness.

11. **(Original)** The night vision device of Claim 9, wherein the interchangeable filter is configured to enhance the contrast of the digital display.

12. **(Original)** The night vision device of Claim 9, wherein the interchangeable filter is configured to reduce the amount of light projected through the eyepiece.

13. **(Original)** The night vision device of Claim 1, wherein the brightness of the digital display is adjustable.

14. **(Currently Amended)** A method for providing night vision to a user, the method comprising:

receiving image data <u>of illuminated objects by an infrared light source associated with a night vision device</u> through first optics into a housing <u>of said night vision device</u>;

digitally enhancing the image data to create enhanced image data adjusted for low light conditions;

electronically displaying an image corresponding to the enhanced image data on a screen disposed within the housing; and

providing a view of the screen through a flexible eyepiece attached to the housing.

15.-16. **(Canceled)**

17. **(Currently Amended)** The method of Claim <u>14</u> [[16]], further comprising selectively adjusting the intensity of the infrared light.

18. **(Original)** The method of Claim 14, further comprising selectively adjusting the gain of the screen.

19. **(Previously Presented)** The method of Claim 14, further comprising selectively filtering the view of the screen through the flexible eyepiece.

20. **(Original)** The method of Claim 19, wherein the selective filtering is based on preserving unaided visual acuity.

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21. **(Original)** The method of Claim 19, where the selective filtering is based on enhancing visual quality.

22. **(Original)** The method of Claim 14, further comprising providing an electronic signal corresponding to the enhanced image data to an external device.

23. **(Original)** The method of Claim 14, further comprising remotely displaying the image.

24. **(Currently Amended)** The method of claim 14, wherein receiving the image data through the first optics comprises:

collecting light through an objective lens; and

focusing the collected light onto an optical sensor.

25.-38. **(Canceled)**